

BUILDING TITLE: Art Gallery and Regional Library **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Brown Street
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B |X| C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** art gallery/library
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial Area **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 |X|
STYLE: International

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1961
2. 1973
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

- 1 Garden, D, *Hamilton*, pp 231 & 243.
- 2 Ibid.

MATERIALS:

Roof: tray deck?
Walls: red brick
Dressings: steel
Plinth: none
Windows: aluminium
Paving: red brick
Other:

SURVEY DATE: 17/5/91 **NEG FILE:** 8/3,4 **REPORTER:** tfh

INTEGRITY: E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Use of the International style.

CONDITION: E |X| G || F || P ||

SIGNIFICANCE: Part of the Municipal complex, the building has significance for its cultural associations as well as for its architecture.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
none required		none apparent	

O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:	TITLE:
land to G Henty, 18/2/52 City of Hamilton	D Alexandra, architect Feary & Sons, builders	Sec CA 4 pt 11,12,13

COUNCIL COMPUTER # not rated

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS122

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Art Gallery
Brown Street

This public building has regional significance as an illustration of the leading role played by Hamilton in recent years in the cultural life of the region. In recognition of the increasing importance of this aspect of Western District life, Hamilton Council had a major involvement in the construction of the combined regional art gallery and library in Brown Street, which opened in late 1961. ⁽¹⁾ It was designed by the Melbourne architect, Douglas D Alexandra, B. Arch., and a lecturer in design in the University of Melbourne's Architecture School, a second floor was added to the gallery in 1973. ⁽²⁾

Hamilton Council's involvement in the Fine Arts began in 1957 when H B Shaw, a Kiama grazier, died and bequeathed his collection of works of art to the Council and 6,000 pounds towards the cost of a building to house it. The Foresters Hall next to the Town Hall was demolished to make way for the new building, which was jointly funded by the Shires of Dundas, Glenelg and Wannon. The gallery won the patronage of the wealthier grazier interests in the Western District and it now boasts an unusually rich collection for a provincial gallery. ⁽³⁾

The building is significantly intact and in excellent condition. It is a major component in the Gray Street Commercial area and particularly the municipal precinct.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1960s - 1970s
Sport & Recreation: art gallery & library
Pastoralism: graziers

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Town Hall, Brown Street

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, 1984.
Who's Who of Hamilton and districts, (1960-1961?)

FOOTNOTES

¹ Garden, D, *Hamilton*, pp 231, 243.

² *Who's Who of Hamilton and districts*, unpaginated. Includes 'A Tribute To The Architect'. Alexandra graduated in 1949 and it was noted he was born in Shepparton and had a particular interest in civic architecture. The journal's cover showed a model of 'the proposed new art gallery and library titled 'A Cultural Dream Come True!'

³ Ibid.